

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03351 042258Z

20

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 042215Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, GT, ES

SUBJ: MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN LEADERS IN GUATEMALA

1. CHIEF OF STATE OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO, FONMIN BATRES AND MINGOV MELGAR HEADED THE 26-MEMBER HONDURAN DELEGATION THAT FLEW TO GUATEMALA CITY ON THE MORNING OF SEPT 1. THE OCCASION WAS AN INVITATION FROM GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ARANA TO BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUATEMALAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE. SALVADORAN PRESIDENT MOLINA WAS THE ONLY OTHER LEADER TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

2. ACCORDING TO HONDURAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, BOTH LOPEZ AND MOLINA MADE LAUDATORY SPEECHES CONCERNING THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA. IN ADDITION, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRESS PLAY WAS GIVEN TO THE ABRAZOS EXCHANGED BY MOLINA AND LOPEZ AT THE CEREMONY, AS WELL AS

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03351 042258Z

TO THE "HISTORIC" NATURE OF THE MEETING. ON THE

DELEGATION'S RETURN THAT EVENING, FONMIN BATRES STATED THAT NO PRIVATE CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS.

3. THE MEETING WAS GENERALLY LOOKED UPON IN HONDURAN CIRCLES AS A SYMBOLIC PRELUDE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MEXICO ON SEPTEMBER 15. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE MEETING IN GUATEMALA HAS, IF NOTHING ELSE, CREATED A MORE POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR THE START OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO ONE BELIEVES THAT THE TALKS WILL BE ANYTHING BUT ARDUOUS AND SURROUNDED BY DIFFICULTIES.
SANCHEZ

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